

## **Barron Elementary School Wins the March 2012 Hampton City Schools Plastic Bag Collection!**

Barron Fundamental Elementary School won the March 2012 plastic bag collection, surpassing 16 other competitors to win a recycled plastic bench from TREX, a plastic film recycler located in Winchester, Virginia. Barron students and the school family brought in 464 pounds of plastic bags (an estimated 35,728 plastic bags), 1.21 pounds of plastic bags per student.

In total, there were 19 collection sites, two were not K12 schools and therefore were not part of the competition, representing more than 10,000 students.

**Altogether, these enthusiastic recyclers removed 2,187 pounds of plastic bags from our garbage, that's an estimated 168,399 plastic bags!**

**Great job to all the participants:** Armstrong School for the Arts, Asbury Elementary School, Barron Elementary School, Bryan Elementary School, Cooper Elementary School, Forrest Elementary School (which is participating in a longer-term competition with TREX), Hampton Christian Elementary School, Langley Elementary School, Rivermont School, Smith Elementary School, Tarrant

Elementary School, Tucker-Capps Elementary School, Andrews School, Phenix School, Spratley Gifted Center, Kecoughtan High School, and Phoebus High School. **Great job also** to Hampton City Schools Administrative Offices and to Hampton University's Biology Department!

Congratulations to the students and staff who worked so hard to earn their recycled plastic bench! ***Much appreciation goes to Charles Sikes, Jr. and Rich and Marilyn Burney*** for collecting the bags from each location and taking them to local Farm Fresh stores for recycling. **Thank you Farm Fresh and TREX for helping to make this competition possible.**

Now, on behalf of the students, staff, and volunteers who worked so hard on this project, let us encourage you to:

**Reduce** the number of disposable plastic bags you use by substituting reusable bags or insisting on no bag for a single item;

**Reuse** the disposable plastic bags you receive by using them for other purposes, such as small trash can liners and pet waste pickup bags; or

**Recycle** them at your local retailer with plastic bag collection boxes. In addition to grocery stores, many larger stores such as Target, Walmart, and JC Penney's have collection boxes. To locate the plastic bag collection site nearest you, go to [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com).

**Most importantly, please make sure your plastic bags do not become litter.** They clog up storm drains, harm wildlife, and contribute to the Atlantic Ocean Garbage Patch (<http://www.sea.edu/plastics/index.htm>).

For more information about recycling plastic bags and other materials, contact the Hampton Clean City Commission at [hccc@hampton.gov](mailto:hccc@hampton.gov) or 727-1130.

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**HAMPTON CLEAN CITY COMMISSION**

***Keep Hampton Beautiful***

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***For More Information About Litter Prevention & Recycling***